

Surf Pines Breeze

Newsletter of the Surf Pines Association

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NOTES FROM SUSAN HOLLOWAY, PRESIDENT

In spite of the mid-March wind storm, it has felt as if spring came early to Surf Pines this year. The daffodils were blooming the first week of March and the ducks and hawks had begun their courting flights. Beach walks were almost warm! What a treat.

But along with the early sunshine and flowers comes a warning that

2015 could be the worst fire year in Oregon in 25 years. In order to avoid a disaster within Surf Pines it will take all of us making good decisions with brush fires and fire pits, and grooming our dead trees. Those of us with recreational fire pits are expected to register them with the fire department, giving them a "heads up" on where they are located. Likewise, register brush fires - each time you get ready to burn - and make sure you follow the size and management requirements.

New swings are up for your children and grandchildren to enjoy. The park grounds and trails are covered with a thick layer of bark chips, an effort to ecologically manage the weeds, especially the sandburs. If you find sandburs in your driveway try the same tactic, covering them with rock, bark or even cardboard. Those burs are so easily transported from one place to another it will take a concerted effort on all our parts to try to eradicate them.

Kathy Arndt and the Community Relations Committee have planned events in July and August for your family. Do make plans to attend the garage sale. Or Fourth of July Picnic in the Park. Or the evening movie.

Thank you to Debbie Eddy, our Administrator and Bookkeeper and John Gates, along with Carol, our Security and Maintenance team. And thanks to Jeff Hall for his years of work on The Breeze and the web site - your expertise is already missed.

I hope to see you walking or biking the roads or attending one of the fun community events planned for your enjoyment. Your Board of Directors continues to work tirelessly for your benefit. Let us know how to make the Surf Pines Association even better.

GARAGE SALES 2015

Time is nearing to sign up for Surf Pines Annual Garage Sale. This year the sale will be held on July 4

You have plenty of time to clean out that garage, attic or back room. Share a sale with your neighbor if you feel you don't have enough goodies to hold a sale of your own. If you are interested in holding a sale on this date you may contact Katie Weber at 503-738-5986 or send me a e-mail at kkweber1.kw@gmail.com.

The Annual Surf Pines Garage Sale generates enthusiasm and buyers from a wide region. In the past some homes have made lots of money, everyone has had fun and cleaned out some "stuff".



Plan to Attend the Annual Meeting

The next Annual Meeting of the Surf Pines Association, as announced by Susan Holloway, President, is scheduled for Saturday, August 8 at 9 a.m., at the Astoria Golf and Country Club. Plan to attend.

PARK HAPPENINGS: MOVIES AND PICNICS

The Community Relations Committee (CRC) is currently planning for the "The Picnic in the Park" scheduled for Sunday, July 5th at 1:00 pm following our annual garage sale event which is Saturday, July 4th from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm.

Neighbors are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share. CRC will provide the salmon, hamburgers and hot dogs. There will also be pop and water provided, feel free to bring your favorite beverage.

The egg toss again will be making an appearance so start practicing! Children and adults are welcome to participate!

Mark your calendars for the movie in the park night scheduled for Friday, August 7th. More details will be provided as the event gets closer and suggestions are welcome regarding the movie of choice.

Life at the Beach only gets better!

Sunset Lake Boating Rules

Please be aware of the rules for boating on Sunset Lake, including the speed limit of 10 MPH set by the State of Oregon. The Clatsop County Sheriff non emergency number is: 503-325-2061.

Mark your Calendars

April 25 ~~ Scotch Broom Eradication
July 4 ~~ Garage Sales
July 5 ~~ Picnic in the Park
August 7 ~~ Movie in the Park
August 8 ~~ Annual Meeting

SECURITY NOTES FROM JOHN GATES

Are you as happy as we are that Spring has arrived? The last 6 weeks or so have been really hard on Carol and me. First we both got the flu, so kept the office closed so as not to spread it to the whole community. And then I had a wreck with my truck. We were doing security rounds in a rental vehicle. It was kind of lonely out there as no one recognized us or stopped to chat. Anyway, we are both feeling much better and I got my truck back March 21st, so everything is getting back to normal. Although it will take a few weeks of catch-up now.

It has been a calm and quiet winter with few weather or security issues. Other than a few limbs down and shingles lost from the high winds, Surf Pines made it through the winter unscathed.

Our two main security issues still seem to be speeding and homeowners giving out their personnel gate codes. Enjoying the nice weather are many joggers, bikers and walkers on our narrow roads, so please slow down and share the road! Also, while driving from the south gate north to about Primrose, take notice of the width of the road. This is the extent of how wide the roads were to be widened. While it doesn't seem like much, it makes a big impact on the safety of those walking or riding bikes.

While I am an employee of Surf Pines and not a voting member, I would like to take a minute to offer my opinion on the controversy that has come about over the last few months. I work for all the members of Surf Pines and feel each of you should have a say in what goes on here. I encourage any of you that have an interest to run for one of the vacant board seats as of August. Or join a committee. This is the best way to have your ideas heard. Everyone's voice and ideas should be heard, not just those who shout the loudest. If you feel you don't have that kind of time then at least e-mail the board or send a comment or idea to be printed in the Breeze. This is how change comes about!

Remember that our committees and Board are made up of volunteers who give of their time and ideas to keep this community moving forward. Their goal is to do what is best for everyone, and while not everyone can be pleased, they don't know what you want if you don't tell them. Voice your opinions and ideas.

I want to personally thank Dave Lukens and Al Beck for their many years of time and hard work on the Roads and Grounds Committee. You will be sorely missed.

Carol and I are looking forward to a great summer and to the return of all our friends who went South for the winter.

Broom Buster: Help the North Coast Land Conservancy & Surf Pines

Each spring, the North Coast Land Conservancy staff and volunteers remove invasive Scotch Broom on conserved properties in Surf Pines and elsewhere. Although the month of May has been designated "Broom Buster" month by the NCLC, due to the early bloom of plants this spring the Surf Pines Board will spearhead our **eradication day on April 25th from 10:00 to 12:00**, followed by brats and beer by the burn site across from the security house.

Roads & Grounds Committee Report



The Roads and Grounds Committee has met twice during the last quarter. Both meetings involved a spirited discussion concerning the Pavement Management Plan. As a result of the tone of the discussions, three people have resigned, severely hampering the work of the committee. Future meetings will be scheduled when volunteers come forward to fill the empty positions. Items discussed are:

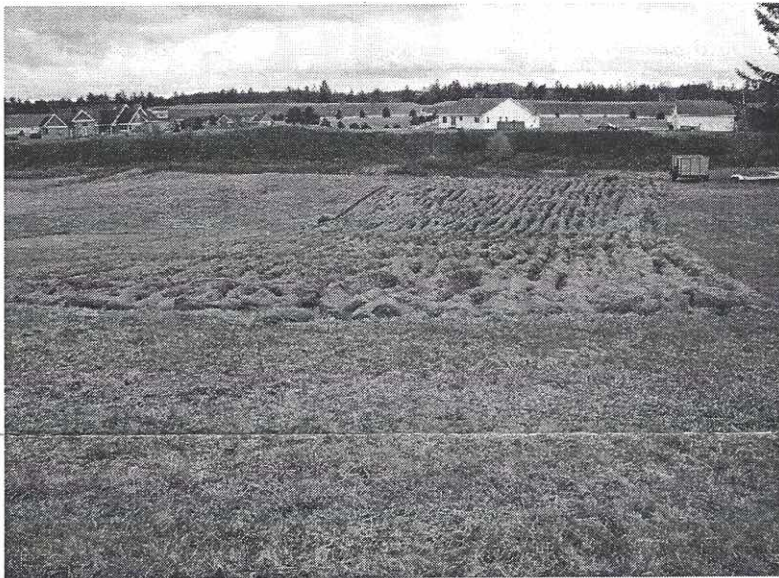
- Pavement Management Plan
 - Opposition to the long term plan approved by the Board in March 2009 concerns the addition of shoulders to the road during repaving. Also in dispute is the placement of Manion Drive within the right of way in the section between Surf Pines Landing Drive and Lakeside Court.
 - Improvements to Ocean Drive during the last five years were completed in accordance with the approved plan. The south end of Manion Dr has also been completed as per the 2009 plan. Some members have proposed repaving without strengthening the shoulders or standardizing the width of the pavement. Opinion of the committee has been that the health of the road system is not well served by neglecting the shoulders and will cost the Association more money over the long term.
 - The paving project on south Ocean Drive will be resumed in the spring when the weather improves and the asphalt plant reopens.
- Herbicide use and invasive weed control
 - The Board placed a moratorium on use of pesticides and herbicides on Surf Pines property until at least August 2015
- Park Restoration
 - Committee recommended approval of the project to cover the main area of the park with wood chips to smother the sandburs. The Board approved and project is in process.
 - New swing set seats are on hand and ready to be installed.
- Street drains
 - Project to clean the four street drains in our community has been approved by the Board and will be completed by the contractor NLT Apr 1.
- Gates
 - The gates continue to operate with only minor interruptions. The proposal for a new control program using up to date software and the internet has not been finalized for consideration by the Board.

SURF PINES IS PART OF THE BUTTERFLY HABITAT RESTORATION RESEARCH STUDY

By Art Limbird

Some of you may have attended the Surf Pines Board meeting on January 16th when North Coast Land Conservancy Stewardship Director, Melissa Reich, spoke and gave a slide show presentation in which she explained that 25 acres in Surf Pines are part of the NCLC conserved lands. Some of you may have seen machines working in the field across from John Gates house, just north of the South Gate into Surf Pines, this past November. Whether or not you listened to Melissa or saw the machines in the field, the following is a brief explanation of how the NCLC is a part of the research study that involved the disturbances to the field. SPA President Susan Holloway has asked me to write this column since I am a volunteer with the NCLC as a Site Steward for 6 Clatsop Plains properties including 3 in Surf Pines; and, I am the 'Soil Sleuth' for the restoration research study.

The research study is a five-year project by the Institute of Applied Ecology [IAE] from Corvallis to restore the plant community habitat for the Oregon Silverspot Butterfly. The IAE



has set up test plots in five different locations that might be suitable for restoring the plants and especially the Early Blue Violet that is the sole food source for the Silverspot caterpillar. One location is on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service property near Willapa Bay just off Sand Ridge Road on the Long Beach Peninsula in Washington. A second location is on Lewis and Clark National Historic Park property south of the coastal end of the Fort to Sea Trail. The other three locations are on NCLC conserved lands. One is called Neacoxie Forest and is

located at the east side of the Properties in Gearhart. Another is at Reed Ranch, west of Highway 101 and east of Neacoxie Lake. The third is by the south gate to Surf Pines and is called Surf Pines Prairie. These are the three locations that I am monitoring.

From a soil perspective, three of the locations [Willapa Bay, Reed Ranch, and Neacoxie Forest] have well developed soils with deep [8 to 12 inch] surface horizons enriched by abundant

organic matter from the decay of grasses and other plants. These same soils have sub-surface horizons enriched by iron oxides and other minerals and are reddish color.

The other two locations [south of the Fort to Sea Trail and Surf Pines Prairie] have weakly developed soils with shallow [3 to 5 inch] surface horizons enriched by only a moderate amount of organic matter. These soils do not have sub-surface horizons and are not enriched with iron oxides or other minerals. The Surf Pines Prairie location seems to be well suited to the restoration of butterfly habitat. This property already has an abundance of Early Blue Violets and other nectar supplying plants [such as buttercup, beach tansy, yarrow, goldenrod, and asters] for the butterflies and the leaves of the violets for the caterpillar.

The IAE is experimenting with three different methods to see which one or ones might help to instill the type of plant habitat needed for the butterfly and its caterpillar. One method is to remove the surface soil layer carefully to expose the layer below. The reasoning for this approach is that the amount of 'topsoil' and decayed organic matter might be inhibiting the survival of the key nectar plants that seem to grow best where there is limited organic matter – a somewhat sterile or stressed environment. A second method is to plow up or mix the surface soil layer in order to dilute the amount of 'topsoil' or decayed organic matter. The reasoning is that there may be too much organic matter for the key plants to survive. The third method is to remove the existing plants from the surface without impacting the surface soil layer itself. The reasoning for this approach is that the non-nectar plants are interfering with the survival of the key nectar plants.



Once the scoop on the machine removed the topsoil layer or the plow on the tractor turned over the topsoil layer or the surface plants were eliminated, Melissa Reich and her helpers scattered a mixture of seeds over the designated plots. At Surf Pines Prairie the mixture contained a short growing fescue grass and a variety of nectar plants. Later, young Early Blue Violets also will be planted. We will continue to monitor and record/document the numbers and types of plants that emerge on the three different treatment types.

Prediction? At Surf Pines Prairie butterfly habitat restoration will be successful especially where there either has been no soil disturbance or the removal of the surface layer. The plowing or turning over of the surface layer will be less successful.